

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☒ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S O  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEWER: 059485

9 February 1972

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: : Restructuring of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS)  
Program

REFERENCE: USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963

1. The NIS Committee recommends that the remaining 18 topical detailed sections be discontinued as part of the NIS Program and that emphasis and resources be directed toward production of a top-quality General Survey, augmented on a highly selective basis by some of the more broadly useful material from the detailed sections.

Rationale

2. Gradual attrition of the detailed sections over the years has produced a melange of topical coverage (see attachment). Shifting requirements for basic intelligence, a more realistic appraisal of what the NIS Program can achieve, and dwindling resources have each played a role in eroding the original concept of unified, well-integrated topical coverage. Discontinuance of topics was in each case agreed to only after careful consideration of identifiable user requirements and availability of alternative coverage, but it is now becoming evident that the cumulative effect of the attrition has produced a program which must seem an enigma to many NIS readers.

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3. For several of the remaining topics, areal coverage has also been markedly curtailed. Transportation topics, for example, are now being produced for only a few countries. Others continue to be produced according to USIB-established country priorities, but the resultant disparate pattern of coverage contributes to reader uncertainty of what to expect from the Program.

4. Except for the General Survey, an adequate maintenance program has been lost. The age of the General Survey averages less than 3 years, but for even those detailed sections still in the inventory, the shelf life has extended to roughly 10 years. With reduced production each year, the span of time will increase sharply.

5. User surveys have indicated that some of the more specialized detailed sections have a relatively limited, albeit devoted readership. Lack of inter-departmental interest in these topics raises the question of their suitability in a national intelligence program. This specialized detailed basic intelligence which for the most part is heavily slanted toward narrow military requirements, could better be produced departmentally as is prescribed in the Concept portion of the Reference.

6. Continuing and increasing budgetary restrictions dictate a reduced profile for the NIS. This reduced profile can be made to meet the needs of the intelligence community by placing full emphasis on the production of a coordinated, high quality, and broadly based General Survey which would better utilize the available resources than the present disparate program.

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Also, the production structure and organization of a new General Survey would enable the program to meet any future requirements for an expanded national basic intelligence effort.

#### Plan

7. Programed production of all detailed sections would be discontinued by the end of FY72.

8. The General Survey slightly expanded and restructured in a bound-by-chapter format would become the body of the program. In addition to providing greater efficiency and flexibility in maintenance, the new format will enable the NIS to incorporate into the appropriate chapters -- or as a separate annex -- some of the more widely useful data now contained in the detailed sections. This will apply particularly to DoD-produced information which cannot be adequately produced and published departmentally. A study is underway by the NIS Committee to identify that material which is suitable for integration into the General Survey.

#### Impact

9. Total elimination of the remaining detailed sections would reduce NIS production by about 30%. Some of the manpower saving implicit in the cutback would be redirected to implementing the production of the new General Survey. It is estimated that the overall resource saving would be about 15%.

#### USIB Action Requested

10. The NIS Committee requests that USIB:

a. Approve the plan to discontinue production of NIS topical detailed sections by the end of FY72.

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b. Note that a study is underway to identify material contained in the detailed sections which can be utilized in the new General Survey.

JOHN KERRY KING  
Chairman, NIS Committee

## ATTRITION OF NIS DETAILED SECTIONS

	to 1960				
Introduction	20				
Military Geogr. Regions	21				
Coasts & Landing Beaches	22				
Weather & Climate	23				
Topography	24				
Urban Areas	25				
Introduction	30				
Railroads	31				
Highways	32				
Inland Waterways	33				
Ports & Naval Facilities	35				
Merchant Marine	36				
Civil Air	37				
Telecommunications	38				
Introduction	40				
Population	41				
Character. of the People	42				
Relig., Educ., Pub. Info	43				
Manpower	44				
Health & Sanitation	45				
Welfare	46				
Introduction	50				
Constitutional System	51				
Structure of the Govt	52				
Political Dynamics	53				
Public Order & Safety	54				
National Policies	55				
Intelligence & Security	56				
Subversion & Insurgency	57				
Propaganda	58				
Key Personalities	59				
Introduction	60				
Agr., Fisheries, Forestry	61				
Fuels & Power	62				
Minerals & Metals	63				
Manufacturing & Construction	64				
Trade & Finance	65				
Introduction	70				
Electronics	71				
Air, Ground, Naval Weapons	72				
Atomic Energy	73				
Biological Warfare	74				
Chemical Warfare	75				
Phy. Sci., Math., Medicine	76				
Introduction	80				
Ground Forces	81				
Naval Forces	82				
Air Forces	83				
Map & Chart Appraisal	IX				
Ports & Naval Facilities	Supp. I				
Coasts & Landing Beaches	Supp. I				
Telecommunications	Supp. III				
Petroleum	Supp. V				
Communism	Supp. VI				
International Communism	108				
Marine Climate	1				
Oceanography	2				
Effects of Climate & Ocean	3				
Straits	4				
		1961-64		1965-68	1969-72
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